

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 A skimmed or preview version of multimedia content is provided to a client
3 computer by a server computer using playlists. The skimmed version of
4 multimedia content can be presented to a user of a client computer in less time
5 than presenting the entire multimedia content would require. The server computer
6 maintains skimming information that identifies particular segments of the
7 multimedia content corresponding to the skimmed version. The server computer
8 uses the skimming information to generate a playlist, which in turn is used by the
9 server computer to access the appropriate segments of the multimedia content and
10 provide the segments to the client computer.